

**NINE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' QUARTERS  
EDGEWOOD ARSENAL, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND  
ABERDEEN, MD**

Administrative/Executive Summary

The nine, non-commissioned officers quarters in the Edgewood section of the Aberdeen Proving Ground, are typical examples of the standardization of military housing during the interwar period, in particular, family housing for non-commissioned officers of the United States Army.

The nine units exhibit the architectural design and planning principles reflective of the goals of the military housing program enacted by Congress in 1926, and have been continuously used as dwellings for military personnel since their construction in 1933. The quarters function solely as residential units for lower ranking officers and are not directly associated with the central, significant mission of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The simple Cape Cod buildings are relatively nondescript examples of a standardized plan designed and constructed by the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps, and are similar – or essentially identical – to military housing units constructed at military installations across the country.

The nine quarters were originally sited around an enclave of early enlisted men's barracks. The demolition of these barracks has resulted in the loss of this historic context, leaving the quarters to appear today as standard, fragmented examples of military housing units of the quiet interwar period. The site of the NCO quarters is not expected to yield significant archeological artifacts or information in the future.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form  
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties**

Survey No. HA-1950

Magi No.

OOE X yes \_\_\_ no

**1. Name**

Nine Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters

Historic Name

Buildings Nos. 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, and 417

Common Name and Building Number

Buildings Nos. E3030, E3032, E3034, E3036, E3038, E3040, E3042, E3044, & E3046

**2. Location**

Clear View Drive (off Ricketts Point Road)

Street and Number

Aberdeen

City, Town

Congressional District

Maryland

Harford

State

County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present use	
<u>X</u> District	<u>X</u> Public	<u>X</u> Occupied	___ Agriculture	___ Museum
___ Building(s)	___ Private	___ Unoccupied	___ Commercial	___ Park
___ Structure	___ Both	___ work in Progress	___ Educational	___ Private Residence
___ Site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ Entertainment	___ Religious
___ Object	___ In Process	___ Yes: Restricted	___ Government	___ Scientific
	___ Being Considered	___ Yes: Unrestricted	___ Industrial	___ Transportation
	___ Not Applicable	<u>X</u> No	<u>X</u> Military	<u>X</u> Other: Housing

**4. Owner of Property**

United States Government/Department of the Army

Name

Aberdeen Proving Ground Support Activity STEAHP-DIC Building 310 410-278-4006

Street & Number

Telephone No.

Aberdeen Proving Ground

Maryland 21005-5001

City, Town

State and Zip Code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

The Harford County Land Records Office

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds, etc.

Liber# \_\_\_\_\_ Folio# \_\_\_\_\_

Main Street

Street & Number

Bel Air

Maryland 21014

City, Town

State and Zip Code

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

N/A

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Title

Date

\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ County \_\_\_ Local

Depository for Survey Records

City, Town

State

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1950

### Condition

☐ Excellent

☒ Good

☐ Fair

☐ Deteriorated

☐ Ruins

☐ Unexposed

☐ Unaltered

☒ Altered

☒ Original Site

☐ Moved

(See attached)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1950

Period	Areas of Significance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> Archeology-Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Economics	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Exploration/Settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Invention		

Specific Dates	Architect				Builder	Area
Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D		
Applicable Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G
Level of Significance	<input type="checkbox"/> National		<input type="checkbox"/> State		<input type="checkbox"/> Local	

(See attached)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1950

(See attached)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (DO NOT COMPLETE UTM REFERENCES)

A				B			
Zone	Easting	North	ing	Zone	Easting	North	ing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

(See attached)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

State	Code	County	Code
State	Code	County	Code

## 11. Form Prepared by

Joan M. Brierton and Judith H. Robinson, Architectural Historians

Name/Title

Robinson & Associates, Inc.

October 10, 1995

Organization

Date

1909 Q Street, N.W.

(202) 234-2333

Street & Number

Telephone

Washington

DC

20009

City or Town

State

Approved by the NIH Federal Preservation Officer

Concurrence of State Preservation Officer

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORMNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building numbers E3030, E3032, E3034, E3036, E3038, E3040, E3042, E3044, and E3046)

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historic name Building numbers 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, and 417.

other names/site number

=====

2. Location Edgewood Arsenal

=====

street & number Clearview Drive (off Ricketts Point Road)

Not for publication N/A

city or town Aberdeen

state Maryland code MD county Harford code

zip code 21010-5423

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>9</u>	<u>          </u> buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**

Ion-Commissioned Officers' Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal)  
(Aberdeen, Maryland)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not  
part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)**

Cat:	Sub:
Government	Military Housing

**Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)**

Cat:	Sub:
Government	Military Housing

**7. Description** See continuation sheet.**Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)**

OTHER: Colonial Revival  
Typical Cape Cod Cottage

**Materials (Enter categories from instructions)**

foundation Concrete  
roof Slate  
walls Brick  
other

**Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the  
property on one or more continuation sheets.)** See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance** See continuation sheet.**Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)**

Military  
Community Planning and Development  
Social History  
Architecture

HA-1957

**USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form**Non-Commissioned Officers Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal)  
(Aberdeen, MD)

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**UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)**

Zone Easting Northing			Zone Easting Northing		
1	—	—	3	—	—
2	—	—	4	—	—

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The nine NCO quarters are sited in a semicircular fashion along Clear View Drive, a "Y"-shaped roadway that extends in an eastward direction off Ricketts Point Road, roughly 1000 feet south of the intersection of Ricketts Point Road and Bush River Road. Clear View Drive runs due east for approximately 250 feet, at which point it splits in a northeasterly and southeasterly direction, with each "leg" of the drive continuing approximately 275 feet and terminating at 16th Street, a north-south corridor that begins at Bush River Road and extends south for approximately 1,000 feet. For the purposes of this document, the site boundaries have been extended 250 feet in each direction from all points along the semicircular portion of Clear View Drive.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The boundaries selected are centered around the housing cluster and identify the major north, south, east, and west corridors or areas that border the site. The boundaries define the general configuration of the housing units as a group and present its approximate location within the Edgewood Arsenal grounds, noting the closest major intersections and site features. Extending the boundaries of the site 250 feet from the semicircular portion of Clear View Drive allows for the inclusion of the open space areas surrounding and contributing to the site.

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

**name/title** Joan Brierton and Judith Robinson, Architectural Historians  
**organization** Robinson & Associates **date** September 1995  
**street & number** 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW **telephone** (202) 234-2333  
**city or town** Washington **state** DC **zip code** 20009

=====

**Property Owner** U.S. Government

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

**name****street & number****city or town****telephone****state****zip code**



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3-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
name of property  
Harford, Maryland  
county and State

## DESCRIPTION

## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

The resources are a grouping of nine, individual, non-commissioned officers' quarters located in the Edgewood section of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The uniform, detached buildings, are clustered just to the north and east of the airfield runway on Clear View Drive, a "Y" shaped road accessed via Ricketts Point Road. Clear View Drive runs due east until it branches in a semicircular fashion to the north and to the south. The non-commissioned officers' quarters line each side of the semicircular road, with five units sited to the north and four units sited to the south. One-story, brick, four-and five-car garages are located behind each housing cluster. Clear View Drive continues *behind* the officers' houses, allowing residents a view of an open, grassy area from the front of the houses. This orientation, with service roads and entrances running behind the houses, and main facades facing an open green was a popular planning solution for the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1930s.

The buildings are simple Colonial Revival structures with Georgian details that exemplify the typical Cape Cod cottage. Their architectural character derives from their compact organization and the overall presentation that the nine buildings make as a grouping. Constructed in 1933 as buildings 409 through 417, the nine buildings are currently numbered evenly as 3030 through 3046. The buildings retain their architectural integrity on the exterior, for the most part, as major alterations have been limited to the interior.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Exterior

Each housing unit consists of three sections: 1) a one-and-one-half-story, three-bay brick core covered by a gabled roof; 2) a one-story, wood-clad dining room wing (with triple windows on the main facade and side elevations) sheltered by a flat roof originally covered with copper decking; and 3) a one-story, brick-faced kitchen wing with a rear entry hall and gabled roof. The gabled roof of the kitchen wing rises one half-story above the dining wing to meet the rear slope of the main core gable. The dining wing is slightly recessed from the main facade, and the kitchen wing extends beyond the rear facade. The house is common bond brick with

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every fourth course executed in Flemish bond. The original slate roofing material has been replaced with cement asbestos shingling. The window sills are limestone. The buildings are framed in the balloon frame manner, with bearing walls of 6" wood studs and non-bearing walls of 4" wood studs. The building foundation is concrete. The rear entry and front porch landings are reinforced concrete.

Front Facade

The front, or main, facade is three bays wide and includes an offset front entrance, flanked by single, double-hung windows with 1/1 lights. The front entrance of each house is sheltered by an arched wooden portico with latticed sides. The arched portico is covered with copper decking and protected by metal flashing. Beneath each entrance portico, concrete lacing has been placed over the brick facade to form an arched door surround. The front door is wooden and topped by a rectangular transom. Aluminum doors have replaced original wooden screened doors. A row of decorative corbeled bricks, set on a row of brick headers, caps the main facade at the roofline just below the gutter. Two dormer windows are placed in the front slope of the roof. An interior, end chimney is located at the ridge line of the wall that adjoins the living room of the main core of the house with the dining room wing.

Side Elevations

The side elevations are significantly different from each other. One features two separate additions that comprise the dining room and kitchen wings. Like the main facade, the wood-clad dining wing features three double-hung windows with 1/1 lights. A single double-hung window in the attic story of the main core of the house is visible along this elevation above the flat-roofed dining wing. The kitchen wing adjoins the dining wing toward the rear of the house, and its sloping gabled roof rises one half-story above the dining wing. This wing is faced on its lower half in brick and on its upper half in wood cladding. A single, double-hung window and a rear entrance door are featured within this wing. A reinforced concrete stair with an iron rail leads to the rear entrance door.

The second elevation is much simpler in form and detail. Faced almost entirely in brick, this elevation includes two double-hung windows with 1/1 lights along the first floor facade, and a single double-hung window in the

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
name of property  
Harford, Maryland  
county and State

attic story, centered below the apex of the roof. The remaining triangular space between this window, and the apex is clad in wood and features a triangular vent at its peak.

Rear Elevation

The main portion of the rear elevation is three bays wide and features three, single double-hung windows with 1/1 lights placed symmetrically along the first-floor facade. The kitchen wing, which protrudes beyond the rear facade at one end, is one bay wide and features a central, double-hung window with 1/1 lights. An outdoor receptacle area, concealed with lattice fencing, is located immediately adjacent to the rear entry stair. Two rectangular casement windows (that appear to open upward) are featured within the concrete foundation. The rear elevation is faced entirely in brick. A row of decorative corbeled bricks, set on a row of brick headers, caps the rear facade at the roofline just below the gutter. Two dormer windows are placed in the rear slope of the roof.

Interior

The buildings were designed as simple, compact structures with a rectangular floor plan. The dimensions of the housing unit are recorded in the Real Property Cards as follows: the main core of the house at the first floor measures 25'8" x 31'9" x 8'9", the dining/kitchen wing measures 12'1" x 28'4" x 8'9", and the attic story measures 16' x 31'9" x 8'. Basement measurements are recorded as 10'6" x 27' x 7'7" and 12'10" x 14'5" x 7'7". The first floor contained a rear entry hall; a small kitchen; an adjoining, dining room; a rectangular living room; two square bedrooms; a bath room; four closets; and a stair hall. The attic floor was finished with two additional bedrooms, a closet, and trunk room. The unfinished basement, accessed by a frame stairway leading from the rear entry hall, provided laundry facilities and basic utilities and originally contained two coal bins.

The nine, non-commissioned officer housing units were not accessible during the site evaluation; however, the Construction Completion Report for these units described the following interior treatments and decorative elements at the time of construction: interior walls and ceilings were plastered, and insulation board was used on the interior of all exterior walls and ceilings in the finished attic; a wooden base was placed on all plastered walls with the exception of the bathroom, which had a tile floor, base and wainscot; picture moulding was installed on plastered walls in the dining room, living room, and two bedrooms; electric lighting fixtures and

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
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radiators were provided in each room. The most significant interior feature of the house, a fireplace, was located in the living room. The fireplace was framed by a simple, Neoclassical, wood surround with a shallow mantle.

Real Property Cards for the nine units document alterations (primarily interior) that have been made to the units since their construction. In addition to minor repairs and anticipated upgrades in electrical and mechanical equipment, the bathrooms and kitchens have been completely renovated, a second half bath has been added to the attic story of each unit, and most of the original flooring, windows, and doors appear to have been replaced.

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
name of property  
Harford, Maryland  
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographical Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Modern Period 1930-Present  
Military-Interwar Period 1919-1939

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Military/Community Planning  
and Development

Resource Type:

Category: District

Historic Environment: Military Installation

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Government/Military Housing

Known Design Source: Construction Service of the Quartermaster  
Corps

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
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Harford, Maryland

## SIGNIFICANCE

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The nine NCO quarters on Clear View Drive are typical examples of standardized plan #625-1517, designed and constructed by the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps in 1933-34. Built as residences for lower-ranking military personnel and their families, the buildings were constructed of simple materials in the Colonial Revival style. This identical plan and several similar to it were constructed in large numbers during this same period at military installations across the country. Though typical of the period, and representative of military housing constructed as a result of the Military Post Construction Fund, these quarters are not outstanding or distinct architecturally; however, the buildings do retain their overall design and the majority of their original materials and features. The quarters have been used continuously as residences for non-commissioned officers and other lower-ranking personnel and are not known to have housed any person(s) significant to the history of the site.

Though the units were constructed adjacent to an extensive collection of enlisted men's barracks - a practice commonly adhered to by the Army when constructing NCO quarters - the barracks (some of which were original to the installation) have since been demolished. The demolition of this residential enclave has resulted in the loss of the historic context in which these nine NCO quarters were originally placed, compromising the integrity and planning logic of this housing district.

While the NCO quarters exhibit a particular standardized plan and planning principles applied by the Army during the interwar years, the buildings were not constructed to support chemical warfare research and manufacturing - the primary mission and purpose of the Edgewood Arsenal/Aberdeen Proving Ground and are, therefore, not directly associated with the important events or achievements that contribute to the historical significance of the installation. As the following text describes, however, the quarters are associated with the maintenance of a standing Army and with the development and evolution of living standards for military personnel, qualities that would not along support their designation as a historic district.

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
name of property  
Harford, MarylandHistory of Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Housing For the U.S. Army*Standardized Plans for NCO Quarters*

Family housing for the United States Army was originally -- and remains today -- stratified according to military rank. The size, material, and location of military housing units was influenced by the rank of officer for whom the units were being designed. At Army posts across the nation, housing for non-commissioned officers (NCOs) is set apart from officer housing and parade ground areas, and generally appears as a modest version of the more predominant architecture of its installation.

Between 1790 and 1940, the Army was the only branch of the service to create a family housing program for non-commissioned officers.<sup>1</sup> However, despite its singular efforts to provide NCO housing, records reveal that the Army did not provide sufficient family housing quarters until after the Civil War. During the period before the Civil War, non-commissioned officers typically were assigned single rooms within enlisted men's barracks.

The Army did not make a systematic effort to provide standardized housing for non-commissioned officers and their families until the 1880s, when it began to include permanent housing for senior NCOs at its larger consolidated installations. It was at this time that the Quartermaster Department began to develop standardized plans for NCO housing. The Quartermaster Department built both detached single-family and duplex NCO housing units. Duplexes were the most common housing type for NCOs between 1890 and World War I. During this era, most installations had no more than approximately half a dozen houses for NCOs and their families.<sup>2</sup>

The first NCO family housing units were provided for specific senior non-commissioned officers, including the commissary sergeant, the ordnance sergeant, or the quartermaster sergeant. Non-commissioned officers were entitled to quarters and allowances if they were married and in the upper

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<sup>1</sup> R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates. *National Historic Context for Department of Defense Installation, 1790-1940 (Draft Report)*, 423.

<sup>2</sup> Goodwin, 424.

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three grades. Early NCO quarters were constructed of inexpensive, available materials, and, as stated previously, were often constructed as simpler versions of installation housing for higher-ranking officers.

NCO housing areas were usually located a few hundred feet behind barracks<sup>3</sup>, and that these areas typically consisted of a row of three to five housing units. Unlike other types of housing, such as barracks and officers quarters, NCO housing was not located around the parade ground or the "business areas of the post."<sup>4</sup>

*The Military Post Construction Fund*

During the 1920s, the Army suffered from a severe nationwide housing shortage. In 1926, after a Congressional investigation into the living conditions at dilapidated World War I mobilization camps, Congress enacted Public Law 45, which allowed the Army to dispose of unneeded property and to use the funds to improve the posts it retained. The Law authorized the Secretary of War to dispose of 43 military installations, or portions thereof, and to deposit the money received from those sales into a special "Military Post Construction Fund," to be used to ameliorate the housing and hospitalization needs of the Army.<sup>5</sup> Initial funds were directed specifically for the construction of hospitals, barracks, and NCO housing. During this period of inter-war construction, the Army built more NCO housing than ever before in its history.

The 1926 military housing program had an enormous impact on Army installations throughout the country. By 1933, total appropriations for programs reached approximately \$80 million. Historically, building costs for the construction of non-commissioned officers quarters were limited to between \$5000 and \$7000 dollars. The housing program was directed by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster General's Office and employed professional architects, engineers, and designers.

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<sup>3</sup> Goodwin, 424.

<sup>4</sup> Bethanie C. Grashof. *A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans (Volume I-VI)*, (Atlanta: Georgia Institute of Technology, May 1986), Volume I, 48.

<sup>5</sup> Grashof, Volume I, 43.



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Harford, Maryland

Standardized plans for NCO family housing, developed by the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps, were comparable to small civilian suburban cottages and bungalows of the same era. The plans followed regional architectural styles, particularly the Colonial Revival with Cape Cod or Georgian Features and the Spanish Colonial Revival. (The Army generally constructed Colonial Revival units from the Mid-Atlantic region north to New England and west to the northeast; the Spanish Colonial style housing was constructed in the hotter climates of the Southeast and Southwest.)

The housing construction funded by the new Military Post Construction Fund also incorporated the notions of city planning through the organization of the component parts of the installation into distinct hierarchical areas within an overall plan. A planner with the Planning Branch of the Quartermaster Corps compared the new NCO housing areas to the "office worker area" of a city, as the NCO family housing areas constituted entire neighborhoods within increasingly large and complex installation plans.<sup>6</sup>

Non-Commissioned Officer Housing at the Aberdeen Proving Ground

The plan for the NCO housing units in the Edgewood area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground was a standardized plan constructed at numerous Army installations throughout the country. Identical housing units (i.e., those identified to date) using the same plan and similar site configurations, were constructed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Wright, New York; Fort Hoyle, Maryland (now part of the Aberdeen Proving Ground); Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Meade, Maryland; and Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey.<sup>7</sup>

Though subtle modifications may have originally distinguished the Edgewood homes from those at other installations, the general uniformity of color, material, shape and floor plan confirmed their inception from the same base plan. Common variations in this particular plan included differing portico designs, number and size of windows in the dining wing, and detailing of window treatments throughout the house. The particular model upon which

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<sup>6</sup> Goodwin & Associates, 425.

<sup>7</sup> Grashof, Volume V (Third Period/NCO-11).

NA-950

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3-86)

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the Edgewood NCO housing was based was constructed in both brick and stone, depending, among other factors, on its location and the military rank for which it was intended.

Along with design uniformity, NCO quarters constructed during this interwar period exhibited distinct similarities in the way they were planned and sited at installations across the country. According to a study of historic Army housing quarters, conducted by Mariani & Associates,<sup>8</sup> a prime consultant to the Army was George B. Ford, an international city planner who advised on the design of plans for several military installations, including Fort Lewis in the state of Washington.

The Mariani study surveyed the Fort Lewis installation in Washington and evaluated the characteristics and condition of a group of outstanding Georgian Revival non-commissioned officer housing units similar to those at Edgewood.<sup>9</sup> The standardized plan for the nine NCO quarters at Edgewood was the same plan used (among several others) for the construction of NCO quarters in the Greenwood section of Fort Lewis, yet the Fort Lewis buildings exhibit a quality of planning and design that exceeds that at Edgewood. (It is interesting to note that between 1921 and 1926, most of the yearly construction budget for the entire Army was earmarked for construction at Camp Benning, Camp [Fort] Lewis, and Edgewood Arsenal.<sup>10</sup>)

When evaluating the NCO quarters at Greenwood, the Mariani report states that "fine residential planning is evident in the way parking and much of the traffic flow are confined to the rear of the quarters." The houses ring common green areas which are planted and have play equipment located in them. The Greenwood quarters are also situated to take full advantage of views of Washington's Mount Rainier.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Mariani & Associates, Architects. *Department of the Army: Study/Survey of Historically Significant Army Family Housing Quarters. Installation Report: Fort Lewis, Washington, (January 1989).*

<sup>9</sup> Mariani & Associates, Architects, 24.

<sup>10</sup> Mariani & Associates, Architects, 25.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

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The planning principles and standardized plans implemented at Fort Lewis were the similar to the principles applied to the construction of NCO housing at the Edgewood Arsenal and Fort Hoyle installations in Maryland during the early 1930s. It is interesting to note that the planning principles were not stratified like the standardized plans, but applied to the planning of residential communities for a range of military personnel, both high-ranking and non-commissioned officers. Both commanding officer and non-commissioned officer housing clusters at Fort Lewis and at the Aberdeen Proving Ground represent this intention.

Along with a corresponding architectural description, the Greenwood properties at Fort Lewis exhibit similar site planning features as those found at the cluster of nine NCO quarters at Edgewood. Both

Colonial/Georgian Revival residential communities are located off the parade grounds, separate from higher ranking officer quarters, and form independent residential communities that reserve parking and access areas to the rear of the homes, and offer open views from the front.

History of the Edgewood Arsenal at the Aberdeen Proving Ground

*The nine NCO quarters at the Edgewood Arsenal were constructed to function essentially as support buildings to an installation with a primary mission of researching, developing, and maintaining a permanent chemical warfare service for the nation.*

The First World War

By the time the United States entered World War I in 1917, all major countries were already involved in the use of chemical warfare. As a result, the United States was forced to plan and prepare for a potential chemical confrontation. Realizing that the American Armed Forces had no experience in chemical warfare, and no plans or equipment to conduct it, efforts were immediately initiated to undertake an extensive chemical warfare mission, including research, production, and combat delivery functions.

On June 28, 1918, the War Department officially established the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS). The CWS was responsible for all facilities and functions related to toxic chemicals. Among the facilities transferred to

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the new CWS was the recently activated ordnance installation known as Edgewood Arsenal, on Gunpowder Neck in Harford County, Maryland, approximately twenty miles northeast of the city of Baltimore.

The site of Edgewood Arsenal had been a rural tract before its acquisition by the Army. The great mobilization of the nation's resources for World War I actually reached Gunpowder Neck in the fall of 1917. The need for an expanded ordnance proving ground was the impetus behind Congressional action authorizing the acquisition of large tracts along the shoreline of Harford County. The larger part of the tract, north and east of the Bush River, became the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

At Edgewood, civilian employment, mostly for construction work, rose to 7,500 in 1918, while the peak military population reached 7,400, the same year. In addition to shell filling and chemical plants, the Army constructed barracks, hospital facilities, other cantonment structures, road and rail networks, storage magazines, and shell dumps. The primary function of Edgewood Arsenal was producing chemicals and loading them into shells. The installation manufactured over 6,000 tons of chemicals in 1918, and filled over 1,500,000 shells and grenades. In addition to the work at Edgewood, the CWS conducted chemical warfare research and development, set up a number of toxic chemical plants throughout the eastern part of the country, created a gas mask industry, and trained men for chemical warfare overseas.<sup>12</sup>

On November 11, 1918, the Armistice brought an end to the wartime mission at Edgewood Arsenal and demobilization efforts began at once.

*Between the Wars*

In June 1920, a new National Defense Act declared the CWS a permanent part of the Regular Army. Its mission included development, procurement, and supply of all offensive and defensive chemical warfare materials. In addition, the CWS was responsible for training the Army in chemical warfare and for organizing, equipping, training, and employing special chemical troops. Edgewood Arsenal remained active as the peacetime center of CWS field activities.

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<sup>12</sup> Jeffery K. Smart. *U.S. Army Chemical and Biological Defense Command: Historical Highlights*, (U.S. Army Chemical and Biological Defense Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5423), 4.

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Despite the encouragement of permanent status, the years after 1920 were lean ones for the CWS and Edgewood Arsenal, and for the Army as a whole. The first effect of the great economic depression of the 1930s was to limit further the expenditure of money for military purposes, though the CWS did not experience major cutbacks at this time. Edgewood Arsenal was a quiet place in the 1920s and 1930s compared with the booming chemical center of 1918. Its chemical plants remained shut down and gradually fell into disrepair. Despite these substantial cutbacks, the Chemical Warfare School at the Arsenal trained successive classes of CWS personnel, as well as Navy and Marine officers.

Though Edgewood had become the focus of all CWS field activities, the reduction of these activities prompted the War Department to reduce the physical size of the Arsenal. A tract of Gunpowder Neck south of the plants was therefore withdrawn from Edgewood in 1922 to become an installation of the Field Artillery known as Fort Hoyle. During the 1930s, Fort Hoyle initiated a limited construction program that added officers quarters, a club, theater, gymnasium, chapel, stables, gun sheds, and a laundry. It was also at this time that the nine NCO quarters were constructed.

*The Second World War*

In 1939, World War II broke out in Europe, stimulating a major increase in the rate of American armament. Edgewood Arsenal soon operated at a pace approaching that of 1918. The Arsenal added new buildings, roads, and rail connections. The CWS constructed a new modern two-story laboratory research center on post. New or rehabilitated manufacturing plants, administrative buildings, utilities, and enlarged CWS school quarters were soon available. In the summer of 1940, the Army activated Fort Hoyle and returned the land to Edgewood Arsenal to help provide for the increased number of CWS troops.

Edgewood Arsenal had the Army's principal gas mask facility, and it was the Edgewood plant that, in addition to turning out over 2.3 million masks, developed procedures, trained cadres, and provided inspectors for the new factories. In recognition of the multifaceted activities carried out at Edgewood, the Army redesignated the installation the Chemical Warfare Center in May 1942. The title, Edgewood Arsenal, however, remained but referred only to the manufacturing activities at the post. Chemical

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warfare, critical to the tactics of World War I, did not figure into World War II, and it is believed that the preparatory work of the CWS may well have been a decisive factor in discouraging its initiation.

*Demobilization and Reorganization*

Demobilization activities began immediately upon President Truman's proclamation of an end of World War II hostilities. The Army agreed that the CWS should continue its existence as a distinct entity in the peacetime Army. In the year following the end of the war, the CWS became known as the Chemical Corps. Edgewood, too, received a new name on August 2, 1946, being designated the Army Chemical Center. The Army Chemical Center became predominantly a research and development center in the years immediately following its name change. The Center supported the Korean War by providing flame and incendiary weapons, and the Vietnam War by providing non-lethal riot-control devices and new lightweight protective masks for the troops. By 1963, after numerous changes in the areas of production and technology, the Army's chemical commodity center became known as the Edgewood Arsenal.

On July 1, 1971, the Edgewood Arsenal was discontinued as a separate installation and merged with the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The organization, itself, however, continued with the name Edgewood Arsenal. Over the last 75 years, the Edgewood area and its tenant organizations have made significant contributions to the defense of the nation, most recently as part of Operation Desert Storm/Shield. In this instance, the Edgewood organizations worked to ensure that the Army was prepared for a chemical weapons attack by the Iraqis. This support included deploying troops and supplying chemical equipment and medical supplies.

The Edgewood Arsenal and its accompanying commands continue to provide the most technically advanced chemical and biological defensive material in the world. Throughout the 20th century, the Aberdeen Proving Ground has remained the center for chemical research for the United States Army.

Architectural and Historical Evaluation

The nine, single, non-commissioned officers quarters located on Clear View Drive at the Edgewood Arsenal exhibit the characteristics typical of standardized military housing quarters of the 1930s. Located in an area

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designated for non-commissioned officer housing, the clustered units are arranged in a semicircular fashion. The rear of the houses face a common green space, while the front of the houses are situated towards views across an open lawn. The central (or rear) common area is currently used as a playground for children, and displays a variety of outdoor play equipment. Traffic and parking are directed and confined to the rear of the quarters.

Historically, non-commissioned officers' quarters were constructed adjacent to barracks and/or the facilities at which NCOs were employed. Though no longer visually evident, maps indicate that the nine NCO quarters at Edgewood were constructed immediately adjacent to a very large grouping of "Enlisted Men's Barracks." A series of barracks lined the area immediately east and northeast of the nine units. More importantly, one of the larger barracks, referred to as Building 471, was E-shaped, and centrally situated on the site that currently serves as the common greenspace/playground behind the NCO quarters.

In the *Consolidated List of Buildings and Structures* of the Edgewood Arsenal, dated May 15, 1936, Building 471 is identified as "Active Civilian Quarters." A map of the Edgewood Arsenal from this period, indicates that the nine NCO quarters were constructed around Building 471, along a semicircular section of the road that once fully encircled the building. The constant fluctuation and ever-decreasing number of military personnel housed at Edgewood resulted in the eventual demolition of all of these barracks between 1941 and 1952;<sup>13</sup> hence, the resulting irregular and incomplete presentation. Though clearly identifiable as a housing area today, the grouping of nine NCO quarters represents a fragment of its once much larger residential context.

The nine NCO quarters constructed along Clear View Drive are similar to two other housing clusters constructed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground. These clusters include a lozenge-shaped grouping constructed just south of the Clear View properties in an area was once known as Fort Hoyle, and a section of the Plum Point officer housing development constructed along Swan Creek. A survey of historically significant U.S. Army housing across

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<sup>13</sup> This information was obtained through an analysis of maps on file with the Edgewood Command Historian, Jeffery K. Smart. The maps, dating from 1918 through the 1960s, chart the evolution and physical development of Edgewood.

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the nation indicated that units identical to those constructed at the Edgewood Arsenal were also constructed at Fort Hoyle, Maryland. As the brief history of Edgewood Arsenal provided in this document states, Fort Hoyle was originally part of the Edgewood Arsenal until it was withdrawn in 1922 to become a separate installation. Shortly thereafter, in 1940, Fort Hoyle was returned to Edgewood and eventually became part of the much larger Aberdeen Proving Ground. As it turns out, the property line that separated the Edgewood Arsenal from Fort Hoyle ran in an east-west direction between what is currently the Clear View homes to the north and a "lozenge"-shaped grouping of non-commissioned officer housing to the south. This second housing cluster is located along Chevron Drive, an east-west corridor also accessed via Ricketts Point Road.

The lozenge-shaped cluster features eleven quarters situated around a central common space. Traffic and parking for these units are also confined to the rear of the buildings. The cluster, also constructed in the early 1930s, features two variations of typical standardized plans -- one of which is identical to the plan constructed just across the lawn on Clear View Drive. The design and planning principles applied to this grouping mimic those adhered to on Clear View Drive, despite the fact that at the time of their construction, the properties were situated for a short time on two separate Army installations. Maps dating from 1941 through the late 1960s revealed that these units were once linked by 16th Street, a north-south corridor that ran parallel to Ricketts Point Road between Clear View and Chevron Drives.

Typical of non-commissioned officer housing, the nine units on Clear View Drive were constructed in an isolated area, removed from the parade ground and the installation's central business district. Residences for higher ranking officials were constructed along the parade grounds and central business areas similar to those seen at Plum Point on the Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Plum Point properties, including the second set of quarters similar to those on Clear View Drive, were also constructed in 1934.

Several of the Plum Point homes that line the parade ground, are a variant of the standardized plan seen on Clear View Drive. Although it was quite common for a single plan design to have several different elevation designs, it was not typical for NCO quarters to be built along parade grounds. It should be noted, however, that the NCO quarters at Plum Point were located at the edge of the parade ground area (adjacent to a firing range). Though these units have housed colonels and higher ranking



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officials for some time, the Goodwin study indicates that they were originally constructed as NCO quarters.

The Plum Point homes make a much stronger architectural statement than the nine NCO quarters on Clear View Drive. They are executed using local stone instead of brick, and exhibit slight refinements in the treatment of doors and windows. The Plum Point residences adhere to the same planning principles applied to the residences along Clear View Drive. The front of the homes at this location face either the open parade ground or Swan Creek, while the rear serves as a designated area for traffic, parking, and access to the homes.

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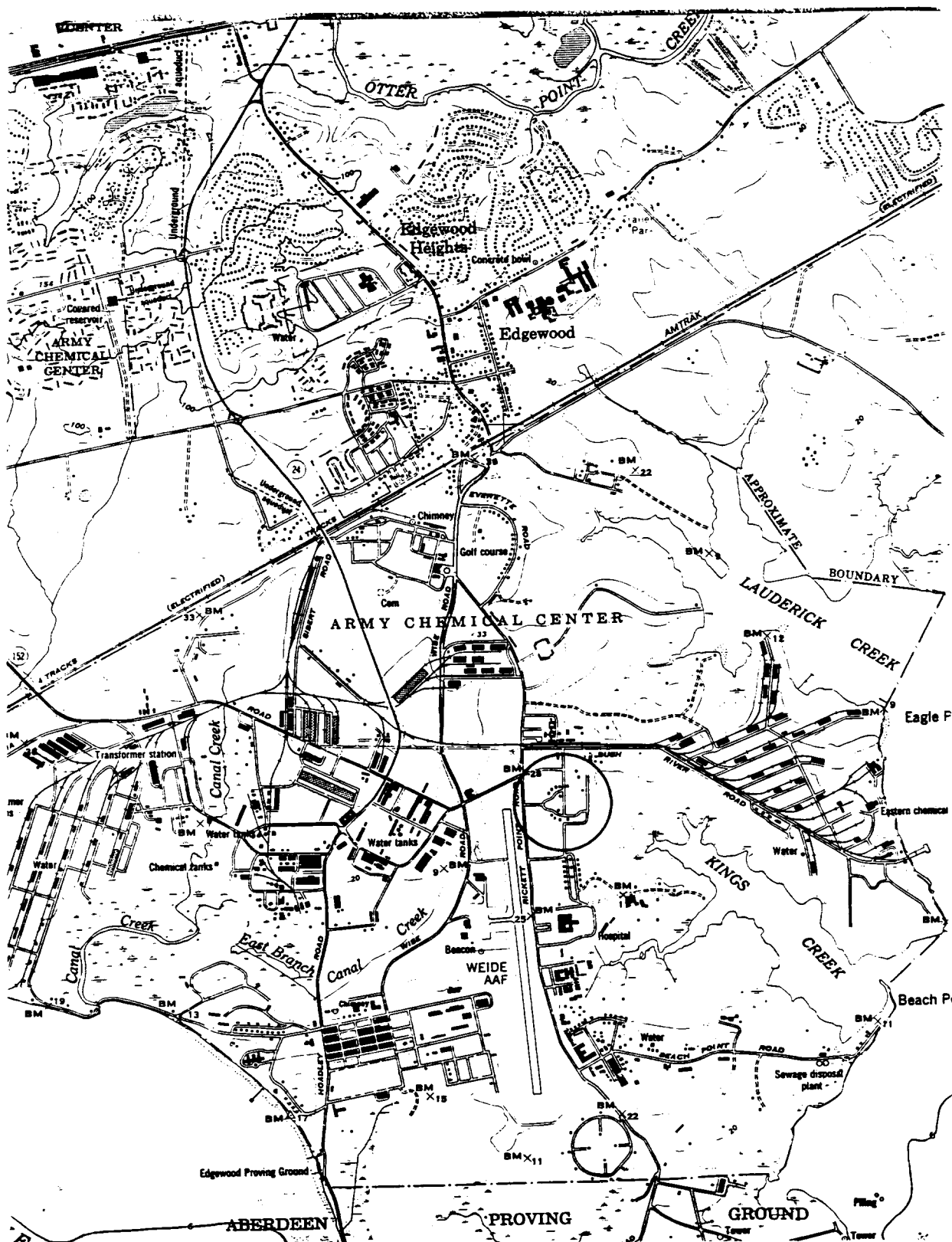
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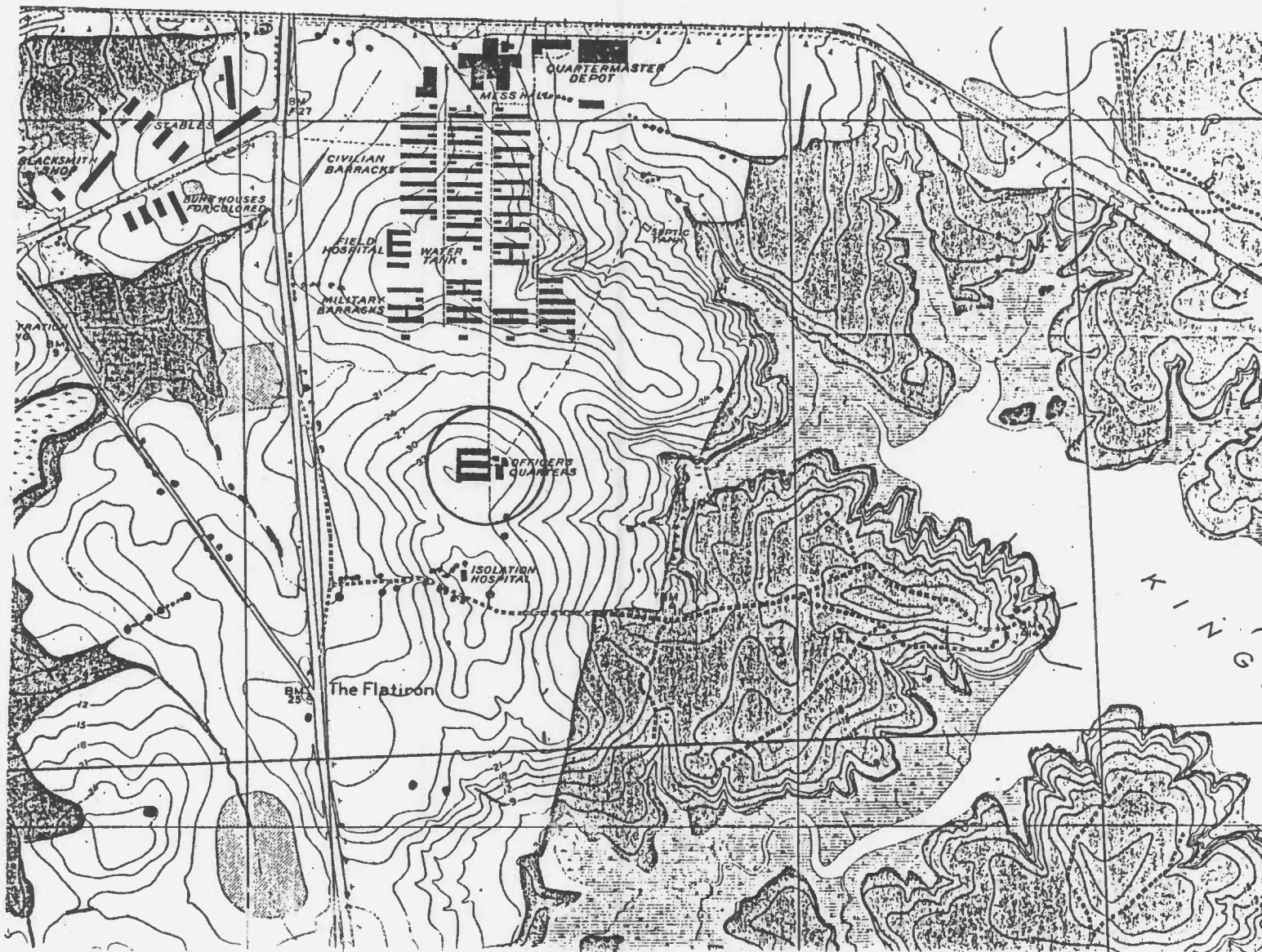
Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters  
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Harford, Maryland

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**Figure 1.**  
USGS map showing site of NCO Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal.  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.



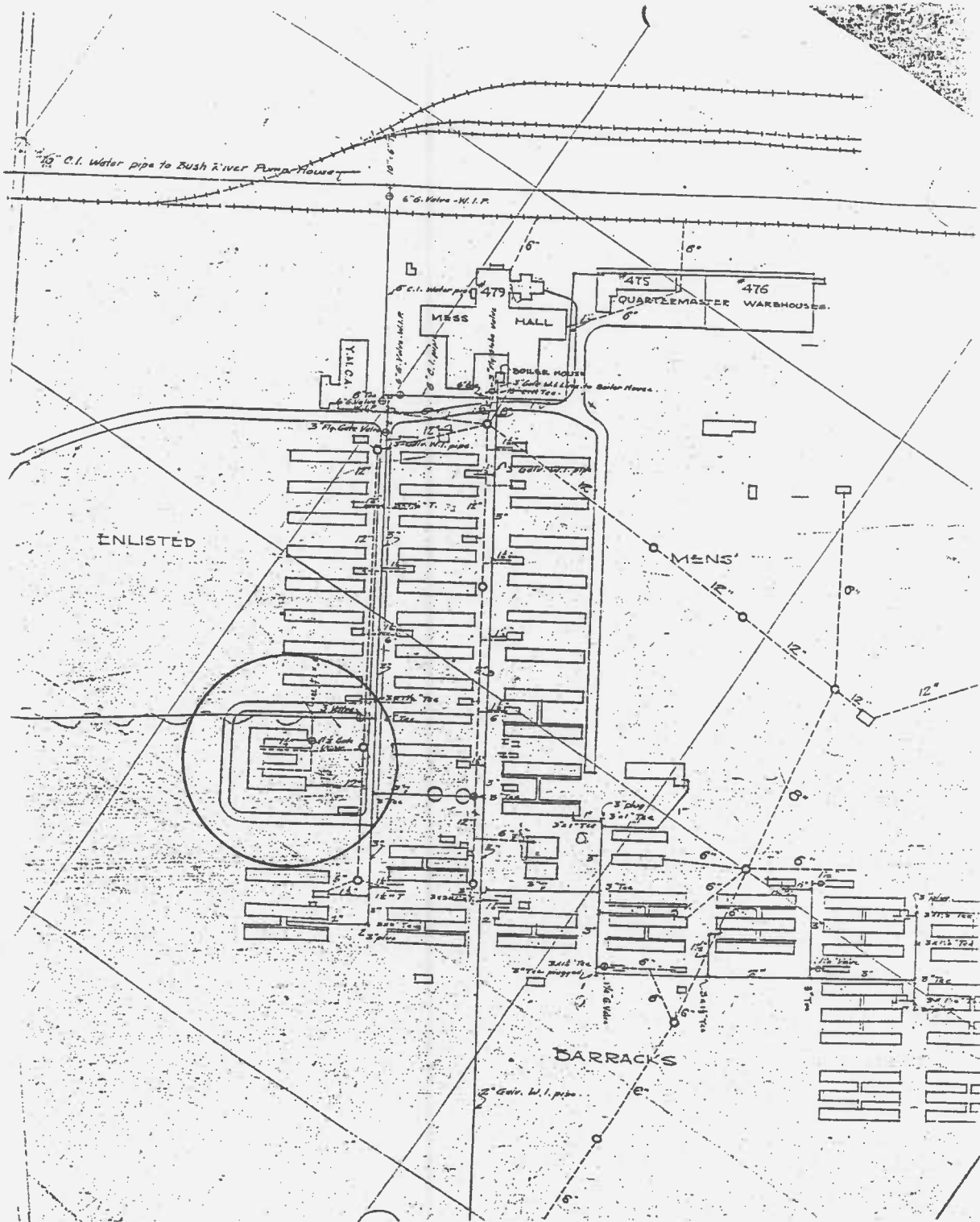
**Figure 2.**

Enlisted Men's Barracks, Edgewood Arsenal, 1918.

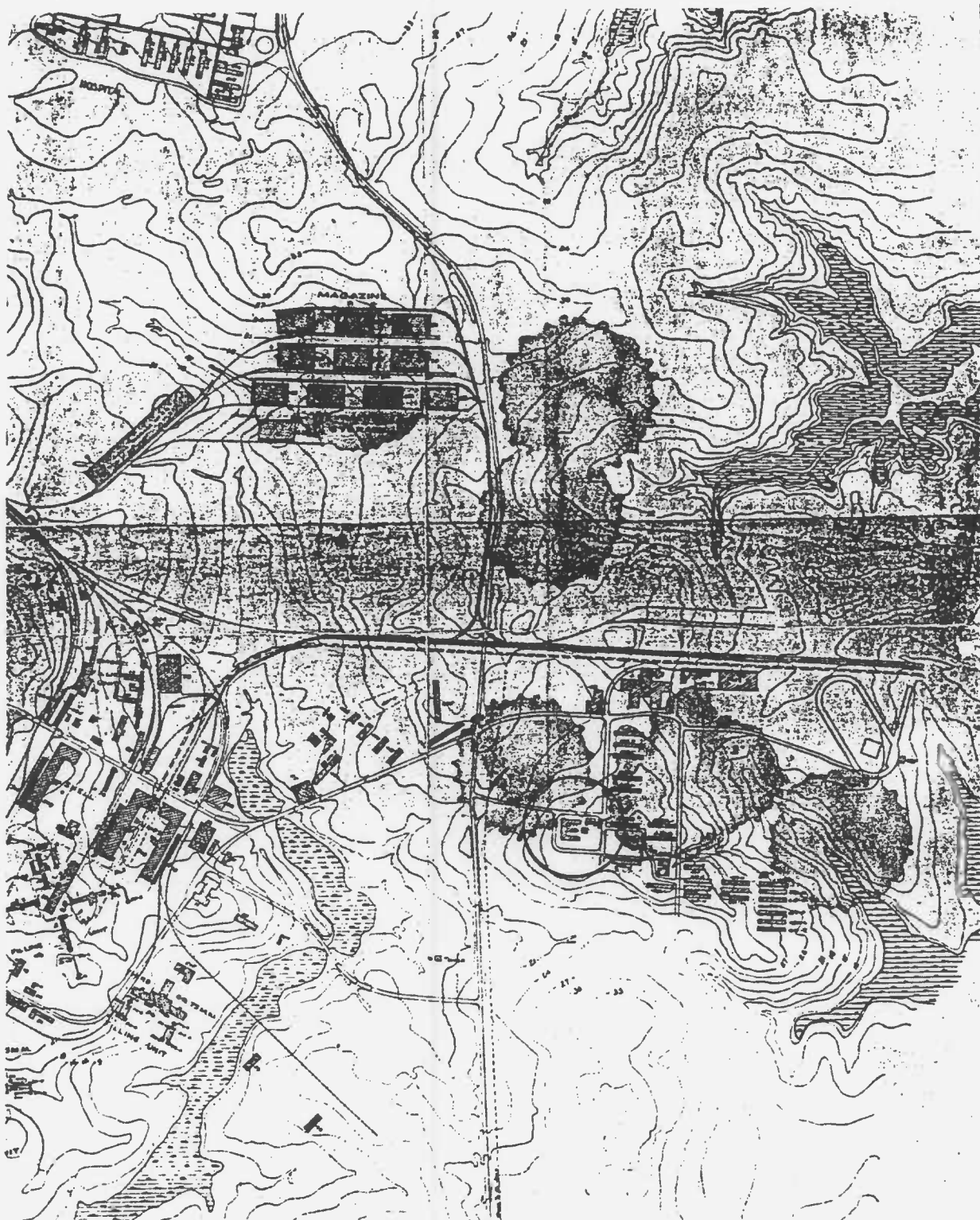
Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



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**Figure 3.**  
 Enlisted Men's Barracks, Edgewood Arsenal, 1918.  
 Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



**Figure 4.**

Enlisted Men's Barracks, Edgewood Arsenal, 1922.

Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.

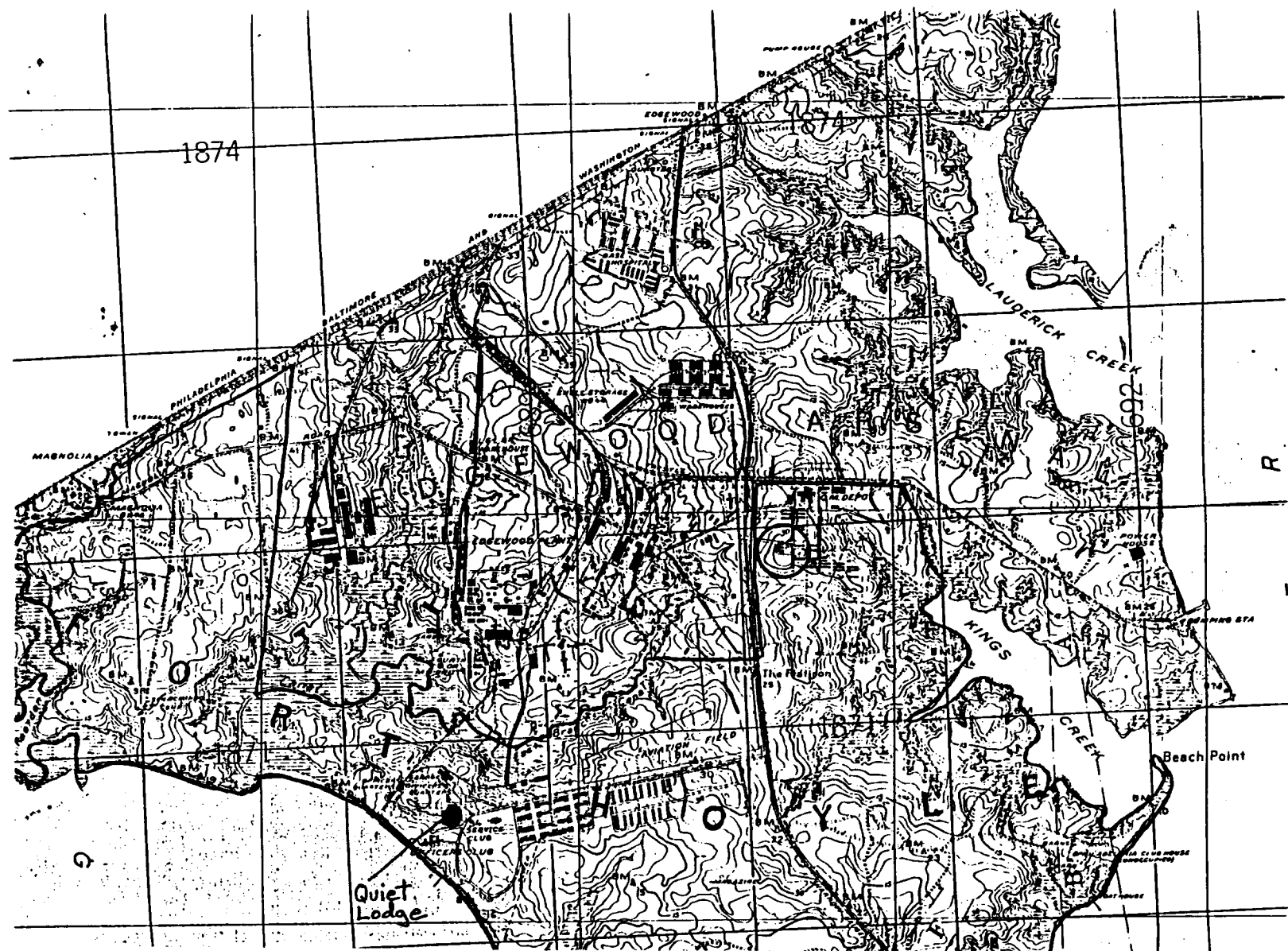
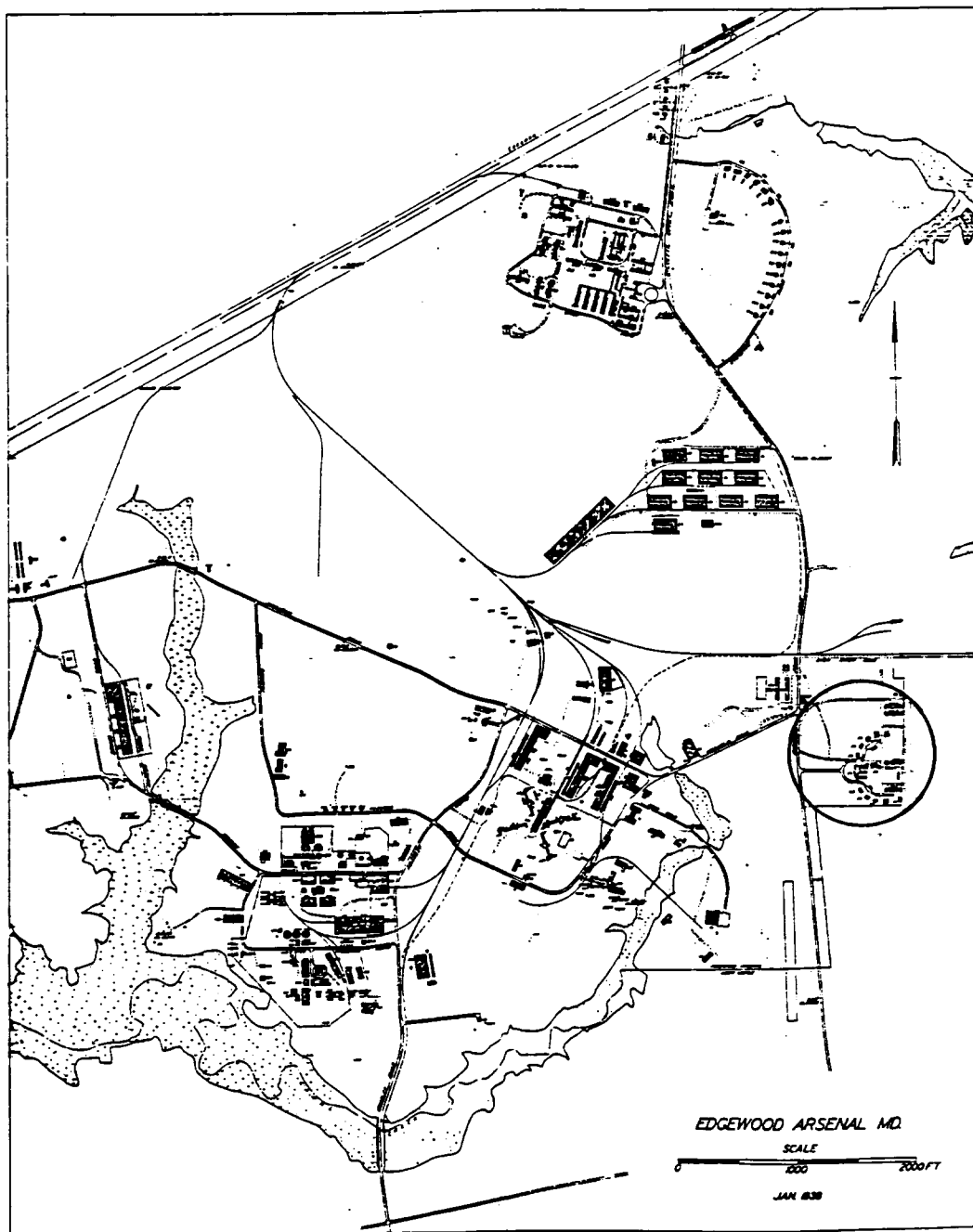


Figure 5.  
 Enlisted Men's Barracks, Edgewood Arsenal, 1923.  
 Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



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**Figure 6.**  
 Enlisted Men's Barracks with adjacent NCO Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal, 1938.  
 Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.

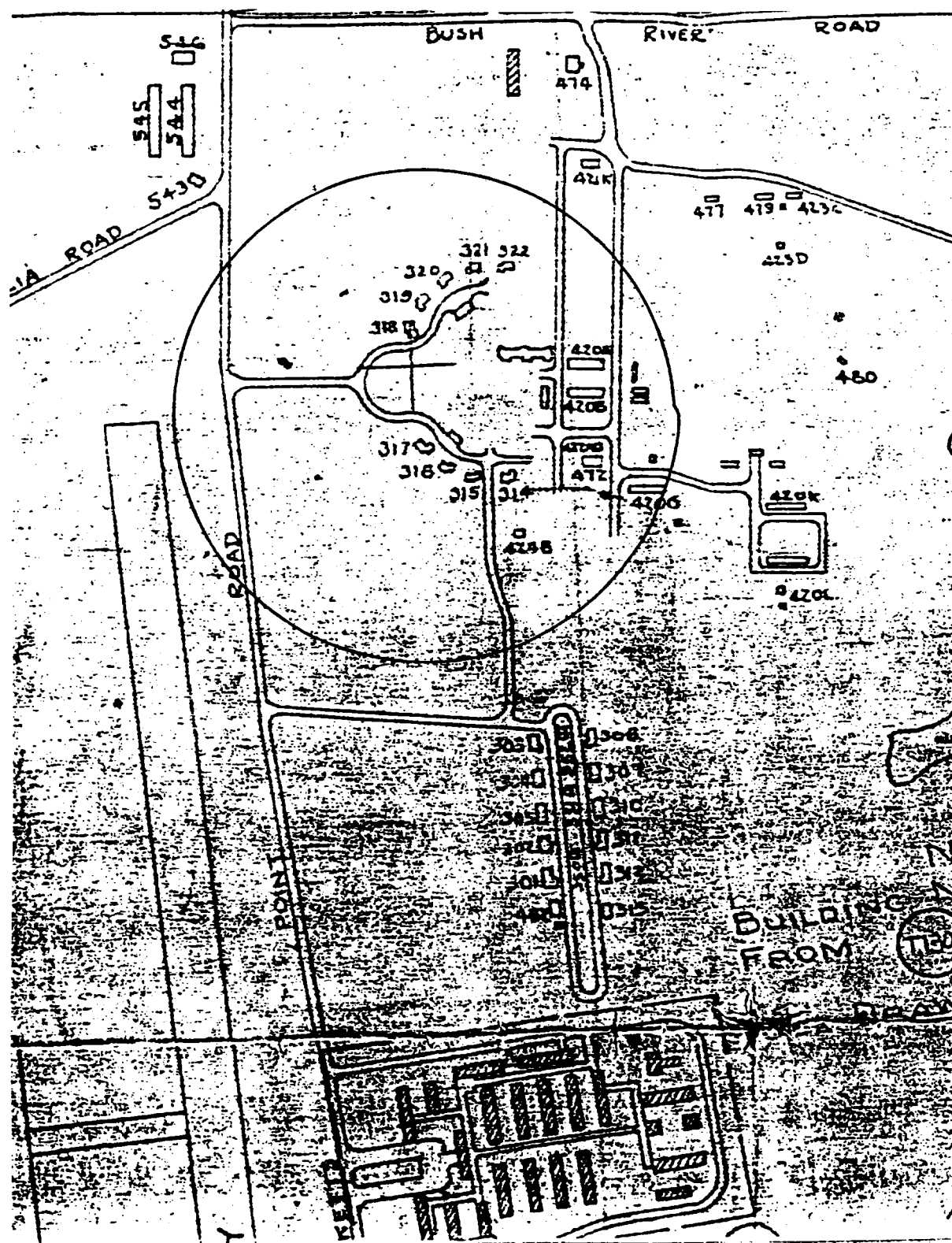


Figure 7.

NCO Quarters (Enlisted Men's Barracks demolished), Edgewood Arsenal, 1941.

Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.

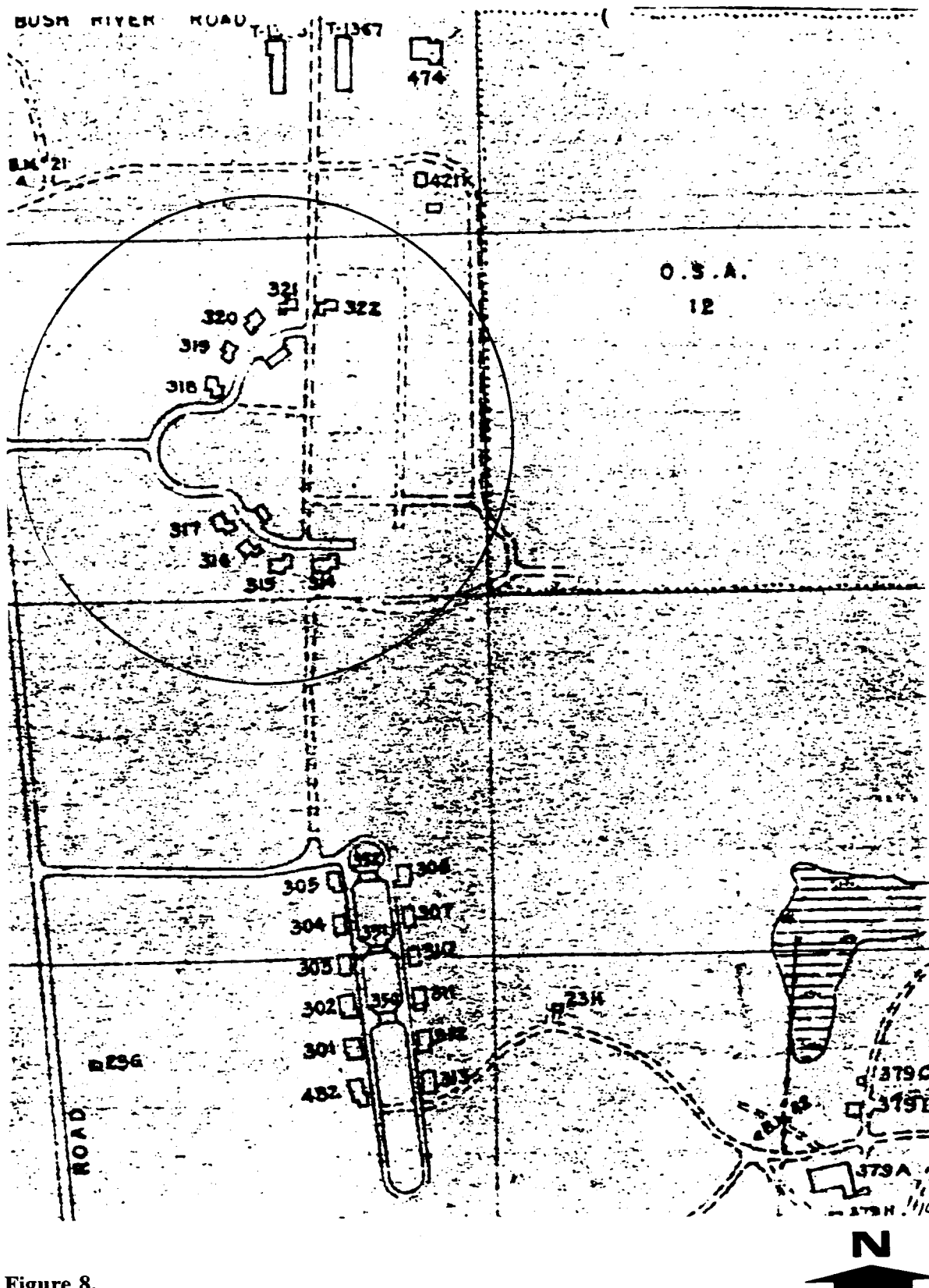
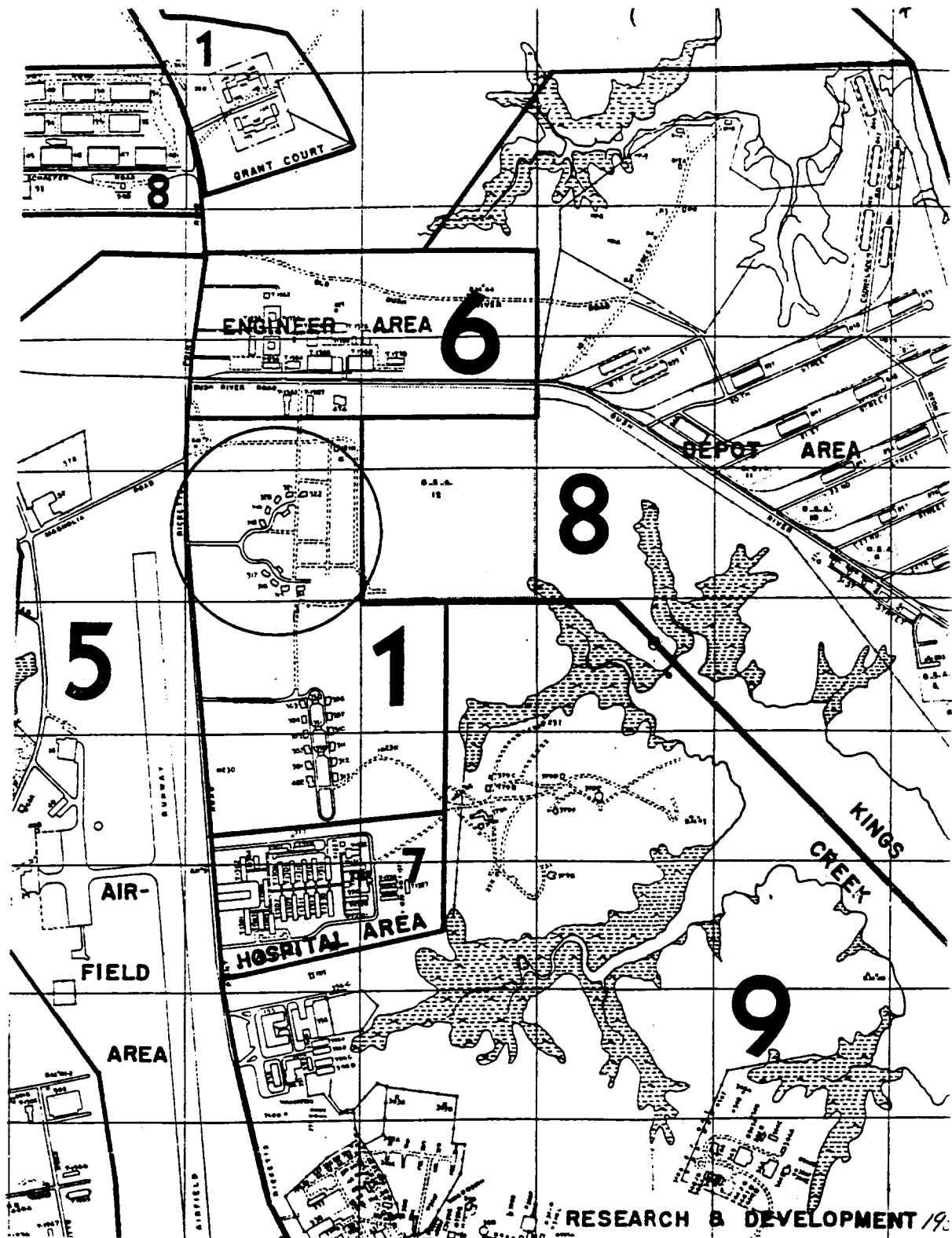


Figure 8.

NCO Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal, 1949.

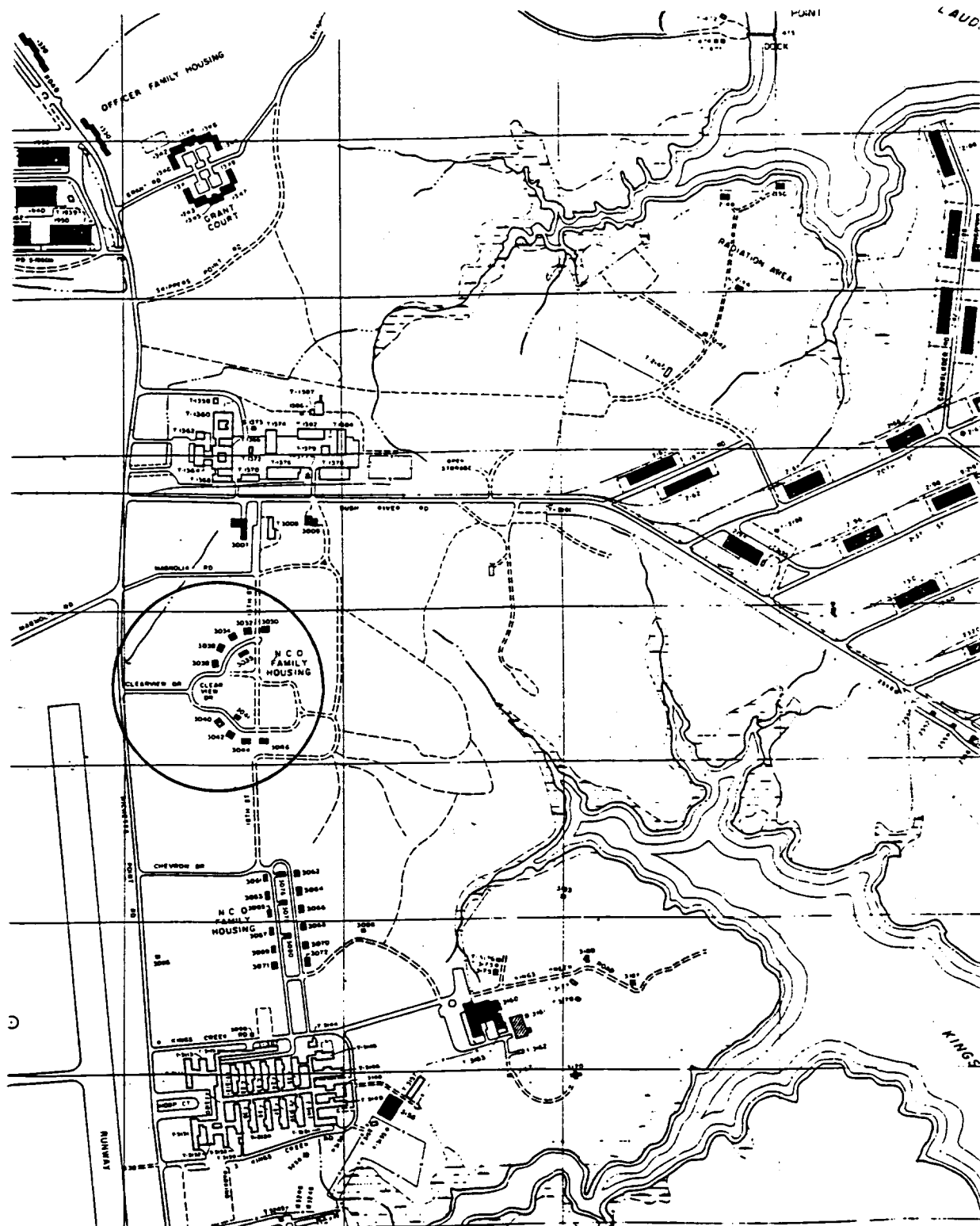
Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



**Figure 9.**

NCO Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal, 1952.

Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



**Figure 10.**  
 NCO Quarters, Edgewood Arsenal, 1962.  
 Courtesy of Command Historian, Jefferey K. Smart, Edgewood Arsenal Historical Office.



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NINE NCO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

NCO QUARTERS FROM CHEVRON DRIVE. LOOKING  
NORTHEAST. 1/6





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NINE N60 QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIBERTON JULY 1975

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPD.

N60 QUARTERS ~~FROM~~ ~~VIEW~~ ACROSS UPRAR VIEW  
DRIVE, LOOKING NORTHEAST. 2/6



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NINE NCO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

NCO QUARTERS #3040. LOOKING SOUTHEAST. 3/6



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NINE NGO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

REAR OF NGO QUARTERS # 3040, 3042, 3044, AND  
3046. LOOKING SOUTH. 4/6



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NINE NGO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

REAR OF NGO QUARTERS # 3038, 3036, 3034, 3032,  
AND 3030. LOOKING NORTH. 5/6





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NINE HQ QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIBERTON JULY 1975

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

GARAGE BEHIND QUARTERS #3040, 3042, 3044, AND  
3046. U/U



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NINE NCO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

MAIN FACADE OF NCO QUARTERS #3062  
LOOKING NORTHWEST. 1/3



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NINE NCO QUARTERS

EDGEWOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

REAR FACADE OF QUARTERS #3062, LOOKING  
NORTHEAST. 2/3



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NINE N60 QUARTERS

EDGEMOOD AREA, AP4, MD.

JOAN BRIERTON JULY 1995

NEGATIVE AT MD SHPO.

N60 QUARTERS # 3062, 3064, 3066, 3068, AND  
3070. LOOKING SOUTHEAST. 3/3